

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01478 301629Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02
INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 BIB-01 /057 W
-----042675 310535Z /11

R 292121Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6161
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1478

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, NU
SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SEMINAR MISSION

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 1210; (B) SAN JOSE 516
(C) MANAGUA 272; (B) USDOC 755

1. EMBOFF HAS SPOKEN AGAINST WITH GENERAL HEBERTO SANCHEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NICARAGUA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICE (TELCOR) (SEE REF C), WHO EXPRESSED CONTINUING INTEREST IN UPCOMING SEMINAR MISSION IN SAL SALVADOR.

2. SANCHEZ, WHO HAS HELD HIS PRESENT POSITION FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS, INDICATED THAT TELCOR HAS MANY NEW PROJECTS THAT IT WISHES TO IMPLEMENT. ALTHOUGH TELCOR HAS TRADITIONALLY TURNED TO GERMAN SUPPLIERS OF TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT IN THE PAST (PRIMARILY SIEMENS), SANCHEZ SAYS THAT THE DECREASING VALUE OF THE DOLLAR, TO WHICH NICARAGUA'S CURRENCY IS LINKED, HAS INCREASED THE COST OF TELCOR'S GERMAN MARK LOANS BY THE EQUIVALENT OF \$5 MILLION. A SIMILAR PROBLEM EXISTS WITH JAPANESE EQUIPMENT WHICH TELCOR HAS BOUGHT IN THE PAST FOR
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 01478 301629Z

NICARAGUA'S EARTH SATELLITE STATION. THEREFORE, TELCOR IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED AT THIS TIME IN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF PURCHASING U.S.-MANUFACTURED EQUIPMENT.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, AND THE FACT THAT NICARAGUA HAS THE LARGEST EARTH SATELLITE STATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, EMBASSY FEELS THAT A STOPOVER IN MANAGUA TO VIEW FIRST-HAND NICARAGUA'S NEEDS AND

THE SATELLITE STATION MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL TO MISSION MEMBERS. SANCHEZ INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THE MISSION STOP IN NICARAGUA AND WOULD GIVE THEM A PERSONAL BRIEFING ON HOW NICARAGUA STANDS VIS-A-VIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHAT ITS PRESENT CAPABILITIES ARE AND WHAT ITS FUTURE NEEDS WILL BE. HE NOTED THAT TELCOR IS CONTEMPLATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND SEARTH SATTEL-LITE STATION WHICH WOULD BE LOCATED ON NICARAGUA'S EAST COAST AND WHICH WOULD BE USED PRIMARILY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH EUROPE AND ASIA.

4. INFORMATION ON NICATELSAT, NICARAGUA'S EARTH SATELLITE STATION: LOCATED FIVE KILOMETERS FROM NICARAGUA WITHIN THE RIM OF AN EXTINCT VOLCANCO, IT IS AN EARTH STATION STANDARD A. OPERATING SINCE DECEMBER 1972, IT CONTAINS JAPANESE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING A 32 METER DISK ANTENNA. CARRIER NUMBER ONE OF THE SYSTEM CONTAINS 102 CHANNELS WHICH PROVIDE SERVICE TONORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA. CARRIER NUMBER TWO CONTAINS 60 CHANNELS WHICH SERVICE ERUOPE. THE STATION CONNECTS WITH INTELSAT IV AS 1. (AN AMCIT REPRESENTATIVE OF COMSAT GENERAL CORP LOOKS AFTER LATTER'S PART OWNERSHIP IN NICATELSAT.)

5. IN REVIEWING THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM, EMBASSY NOTES (REF D) THAT MISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR SAN JOSE JULY 12-14 AND FOR GUATEMALA CITY JULY 15-19. PERHAPS MISSION COULD STOP IN MANAGUA BETWEEN THESE TWO POINTS ON THE WEEKEND OF 15 AND 16. EMBASSY ALSO NOTED (REF B) THAT TIMING NOT CONVENIENT WITH SAN JOSE. PLEASE ADVISE IF NEW SCHEDULE HAS BEEN DETERMINED AND WHETHER INFORMAL STOP IN MANAGUA UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANAGU 01478 301629Z

DEEMED APPROPRIATE AND LOGISTICALLY FEASIBLE.
SOLAUN

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU01478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780139-0749
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780314/aaaaalkx.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c67e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 SAN SALVADOR 1210, 78 SAN JOSE 516, 78 MANAGUA 272
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3171502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SEMINAR MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, NU
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c67e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014